

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD TAKES JURISDICTION OVER DISPUTE WITH CLERKS

Jurisdiction over the dispute between the Retail Clerks Union in the harbor district and employers in Torrance, San Pedro and Wilmington was assumed yesterday by the National Labor Relations Board.

A complaint was issued by the board directing the Retail Clerks Union 905, Haskell Tidwell, secretary and treasurer, and Albert E. Morgan, business agent, to answer charges on April 21 that they had refused to bargain in good faith with the A-1 Photo Service, which has stores both in San Pedro and Torrance, and with attempting to compel the photo service to establish a closed shop.

Some 13 other complaints are pending, based upon the result of the one involving the photo service firm in which N.L.R.B. took jurisdiction.

This is the first time that the Federal agency has taken authority over the dispute which has kept several Torrance stores closed for more than a year.

The interest of N.L.R.B. was urged by Rep. Cecil R. King, as a result of telegrams sent to him by President C. T. Rippey, of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and others, and it is hoped locally that the effort will result in re-opening of such stores as the J. C. Penney Co., J. J. Newberry Co. and others closed by the dispute between employers and Tidwell.

The hearing on April 21, before a trial examiner in Room 704, 111 W. 7th street, Los Angeles, will be open to the public, according to a report to the Torrance Herald by D. L. Harrington, acting chief legal officer of N.L.R.B. in this area.

Meanwhile, Tidwell appeared before Justice of the Peace John A. Shidler yesterday to answer the charges of criminal libel brought against him as a result of the complaint of Capt. L. E. DeLaney. Tidwell was accused of circulating an infamous letter which assertedly damaged the character and community standing of Captain DeLaney, and his hearing originally scheduled for March 23 was continued until yesterday.

Tidwell entered a plea of not guilty and a jury trial was set for May 26. A demurrer to the charges filed jointly was set for argument on April 20.

The trial is contingent upon the outcome of the hearing on the demurrer, attorneys said. The demurrer was general in character, alleging that the complaint of the District Attorney was ambiguous, erroneous and uncertain, and that the Justice court lacks jurisdiction in the case.

The publication of the alleged infamous letter against Captain DeLaney is asserted to have taken place within the jurisdiction of the local Justice court. Tidwell was released on his own recognizance when he originally appeared with his attorney to answer the charge on March 23.

Basis of the N.L.R.B. case is said to be the claim that the action of Tidwell and his Clerks' union against the A-1 Photo Service is affecting interstate commerce in violation of the Taft-Hartley law.

In another case in which Tidwell is involved, where the Superior court has issued an injunction to prohibit picketing by the union of certain stores in Wilmington, the hearing on an order to show cause as to why a permanent injunction should not be issued was continued April 5 to April 15, next Tuesday, at the request of Tidwell's attorney.

Another case, in which the legality of the election of officers of the Clerks' union was attacked by members of the union, also in Superior court, has resulted. It is reported, in a decision by Tidwell to call another election on May 22.

Two Suicide Attempts Fail

Two attempted suicides were reported this week when the husband and son of Grace Hatten, 1614 228th street discovered her attempting to asphyxiate herself by monoxide poisoning in her automobile and Redondo Police discovered John William Jordan, of El Segundo, parked at Calle Mirra Mar and Catalina avenue with a garden hose leading from the winding to the exhaust pipe, police reports showed.

Mrs. Hatten was given artificial respiration by the Torrance Police until an inhalator from the fire department arrived and revived her.

Jordan was believed dependent of his physical condition. He has an artificial leg, the police said.

School Building Cost Reduction Revealed Here

Photographs and drawings of a modern school of unique design that can be constructed for approximately \$10.50 per square foot were shown members of the Board of Education by H. L. Gogerty, Los Angeles architect, at a meeting last Tuesday night.

Gogerty invited members of the Board to inspect a school at La Canada similar in design and construction to the type he showed the board members. Of the three classroom unit size the buildings recently have been awarded to contractors on bids ranging from \$10.20 to \$10.90 per square foot, Gogerty claimed. He said that the Emerson Elementary school in Compton, which is the same type construction as those considered for Torrance was awarded for \$10.75 per square foot which included radiant heating.

Previous estimates on the construction of proposed school plants was figured at \$12 per square foot, which is the figure set by the School House Planning Commission for state aid on construction programs.

Public Schools Week Programs Planned Here

Public Schools Week programs will be conducted in the various elementary schools of Torrance as well as in the high school.

Principals of the various schools have been asked to arrange public relations programs in connection with the Masonic observance of public schools week on the following days:

Ferry School, Monday, April 26.
Walteria School, Tuesday, April 27.
Fern Avenue School, Wednesday, April 28.
Torrance Elementary, Thursday, April 29.
Junior High School, Friday, April 30.

Frederick Cook, past master of the Torrance Masonic lodge, is chairman for public schools week for his lodge.

Local Red Cross Surpasses Quota In 1948 Drive

"Over the top," Torrance Red Cross workers in the geographic division heard this message flashed's tabulations disclosed that Torrance had surpassed its quota.

Announcement of the successful completion of this portion of this year's fund-raising campaign in the residential area was made by Mrs. A. L. Hudson, fund chairman, who stated: "Torrance citizens are to be congratulated for their generosity in answering the Red Cross appeal, thus making possible the continuance and expansion of the organization's service in this locale."

However, the campaign in the commerce and industry division is still to be completed. Only 51 percent of this quota has been received, it was said.

In those plants where there has been no solicitation, it is suggested that employees send contributions to Red Cross headquarters, 1345 El Prado, or call Torrance 1524.

VFW Post Starts Hall

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the V.F.W. hall for Post No. 3251 and its auxiliary were held at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning at Washington and Arlington avenues.

The new structure will be built from two army barracks buildings donated by James G. Caldwell, director of the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center. Commander James Brodie said. When completed the hall will have a main auditorium 50 by 72 feet, a small auxiliary auditorium, 20 by 48 feet, and a snack bar 20 by 48 feet.

TORRANCE FINANCIAL CONDITION SOUND AS LAST QUARTER ENTERED

The City of Torrance is in a sound financial condition, with the city completely solvent, Mayor J. Hugh Sherrey, Jr., said yesterday. His statement was based on the recent audit of Logan R. Cotton, under contract to the city as auditor.

Sherrey's statement, issued on behalf of all members of the Council, said:

April 7, 1948
"That the Taxpayer of the City of Torrance might be informed on the financial condition of the City at the present time, we, the City officials, desire to make this statement:

"The City of Torrance is in sound financial condition. The expenses are not exceeding the receipts. The City is completely solvent, all bills are paid and there will be a substantial cash balance at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 1948.

"The present balance of \$35,000 on an old loan, which was originally \$70,000, will be repaid to the Water Department by June 30, 1948. There will also be a substantial balance to carry over into the next fiscal year.

"The above statements are made based upon facts submitted by the City Auditor, who recently completed a quarterly financial survey of the City of Torrance.

"Signed: J. Hugh Sherrey, Mayor."

"I have just completed a quarterly financial survey of the City of Torrance, and verify the above statement.

"Signed: Logan R. Cotton, City Auditor."

FIRST MOVE MADE FOR T H S LIGHTS, STANDS

The first really organized step toward securing lights and bleachers for Torrance High School was taken Tuesday morning when a group of students met with school authorities and a local citizens committee at the high school and considered plans for movement of the field.

Attending the meeting were representatives of the student body including Jack Hood, president; Dick Turner, commissioner of athletics; Pat Mullin, commissioner of finance; Connie Navarro, student body secretary; the committee of citizens headed by Ray Rogers, chairman; Dr. Rollin Smith and James L. Lynch.

School authorities who attended the meeting were: Heinrich Hall, Torrance City Superintendent of Schools; Lloyd Waller and Arthur Main, principal and vice principal respectively of Torrance High School.

It was generally decided that the location of the field should be shifted slightly so that bleachers could be constructed to seat the larger audiences that are anticipated with the addition of lights and the increased population of Torrance and surrounding communities.

Hull agreed to start preliminary surveying of the field to establish the new location. This is necessary, it was expressed, before electrical engineers and contractors will be able to give estimates on the cost of installing the battery of lights.

It was generally conceded that temporary bleachers should be rented the first year under the lights while plans are being drawn up for a suitable type of permanent structure.

Several persons stated that they had "sounded-out" local bankers who had expressed willingness to cooperate on the financing of the program. The plan at present calls for obtaining estimates on the cost of moving and grading the field, purchasing and installation of adequate lights, and receiving a quotation on the cost of renting bleachers. Armed with this information the committee will present it to the local banks, who will then loan the necessary funds to the proper parties. It may be necessary to secure the signature of community-minded citizens to guarantee payment of the loan.

It is reported that the schools are seeking a 10-acre site for a new school in that area, and that one selected by the schools and approved by the state is on what Senness claims is his most valuable land. He is offering another site through which a gully now passes, it is reported, but has agreed to fill the gully, divert the runoff and level the area.

The site would be used if the proposed school house building program provided in the June 4 bond issue proposal is successful. It would be one of four 15-unit schools to be built in various parts of the city.

Burning At Dump Stops

The City of Torrance will conform with the order that all burning at the city dump near Western avenue and Plaza del Amo be discontinued on July 1, it was announced yesterday. Mayor J. Hugh Sherrey Jr., City Administrator George W. Stevens, City Attorney C. Douglas Smith and others were summoned Tuesday to a hearing in the district attorney's office regarding anti-smog complaints against the city. Some 40 other cities also had representatives there.

Torrance is said to have agreed to stop burning at the dump and resort to the cut-and-cover method of disposing of combustible rubbish, although this method is more costly than burning.

Gamblers' Interest In Election Seen As Councilmanic Majority Put Up To Voters On Tuesday

Report to the People

Fulfilling its obligation of reporting to the people news of the events of the day, the Torrance Herald below publishes the result of its recent poll of the 14 candidates for City Council at the April 13, municipal election, as to their stand on three important measures on the ballot of that day.

CITY MANAGER

QUESTION: Do you favor a City Manager form of government as outlined in the Charter amendment which is being submitted to the electorate for adoption?

THE REPLIES OF THE CANDIDATES:

	YES	NO	REPLY	REMARKS
BUNXTON	X			
GILBERT		X		
TOLSON	X			
DOWNING	X			
DRALE		X		
DUNMYER		X		
EVANS				See Letter
HAGGARD	X			
KING	X			
KREKOW	X			
LONG	X			
POWELL	X			
WATSON		X		
WAYT				See Letter

\$50 SALARY

QUESTION: If the voters decide to eliminate the \$50 per month salary now being paid to councilmen, are you willing to give your best thought and effort to the position, if elected?

THE REPLIES OF THE CANDIDATES:

	YES	NO	REPLY	REMARKS
BUNXTON	X			
GILBERT		X		
TOLSON	X			
DOWNING	X			See Letter
DRALE		X		
DUNMYER	X			
EVANS				See Letter
HAGGARD	X			
KING	X			
KREKOW	X			
LONG	X			
POWELL	X			
WATSON	X			
WAYT		X		

PUBLIC POKER HALLS

QUESTION: Do you favor outlawing the licensing of public draw poker halls as provided in the amendment to the City Charter proposed at this election?

THE REPLIES OF THE CANDIDATES:

	YES	NO	REPLY	REMARKS
BUNXTON	X			
GILBERT		X		
TOLSON	X			
DOWNING	X			
DRALE		X		
DUNMYER		X		
EVANS				See Letter
HAGGARD	X			
KING	X			
KREKOW	X			
LONG	X			
POWELL	X			
WATSON		X		
WAYT				See Letter

(Editor's Note: In fairness to all the candidates, each was invited to make remarks about his stand on these and other issues of the day, and letters responding have been published or are printed elsewhere in this edition. Replies were received from all 14 Councilmanic candidates excepting C. M. Gilbert.)

Season's Rain Still Low

Although the Torrance weather man reported three days of rain last week, the precipitation was only 24 of an inch to bring the total to 4.08 inches for the season. The 1947 figure for the season's rainfall for the same date is 9.88.

Month	Maximum	Minimum
April	65	49
May	61	42
June	64	43
July	66	44
August	62	46

\$200 Fine For Drunk Driving

A fine of \$200 was imposed upon Refugio Vasquez, 615½ Crestwood, San Pedro, following his arrest last Friday for drunk driving and operating a car without a license by City Judge Otto B. Willett in the City Court on April 3, the court records showed.

Vasquez's license had been suspended on a previous conviction of drunk driving at the time he was arrested, it was alleged.

Supporting the contentions of many leaders in the present municipal election campaign that certain councilmanic candidates favor the licensing of public poker halls in Torrance, Bob L. Haggard, Realtor, revealed this week that a client of his had given instructions to hold off trying to rent his (the

client's) property until after the local election because certain gambling interests had offered to take the property on a basis of twice the rental that could be expected from any legitimate concern.

This frank revelation that gambling interests are again hopeful of opening public poker halls in Torrance after the April 13 election, ignited a torch for the present election campaign, which up to this final week has been rather colorless.

To be decided at the election next Tuesday, April 13, are a majority, or three, members on the City Council out of a field of 14 candidates; three members on the Board of Education (also a majority) out of five candidates; and a decision on five propositions. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Gambling interests on many previous occasions have attempted to influence the electorate in their choice of council candidates, and it is claimed by those favoring the anti-gambling amendment to the City Charter that these attempts will continue to be made until the gambling crowd is permanently shut out by the adoption of the proposed Charter amendment. They point out that a "Yes" vote is a vote against gambling.

For the purpose of clarifying this issue as well as other important propositions on next Tuesday's ballot, the Herald polled the 14 candidates for City Council. Readers are referred to the results of this inquiry for guidance in selecting candidates on the gambling issue as well as the City Manager amendment and elimination of councilmen's salaries.

Haggard's signed statement, which touched off the anti-gambling crusade, follows:

"On March 23 the owner of a vacant business building in Torrance, for which I had been trying to procure a tenant, instructed me to hold off trying to rent the property until after the local municipal election because certain gambling interest had offered to take the property on a basis of \$500.00 a month rental, which

(Continued on Page 5-A)

The order has just been received. It is a long order, 74 pages, and we have not had sufficient time to study it carefully. On first reading it would appear that the rates authorized are insufficient. If the Company is to raise the additional capital funds required to meet the public's demand for more and more telephone service, it must have reasonable rates.

Extended service residence rates in Torrance remain the same, but a new four-party extended service rate was established at \$2.50.

The request to increase extended service business rates from \$4.00 to \$4.75 was denied. The extended service provision of the Lomita exchange remains the same, the new four-party service rate being \$3.50 per month.

Other Lomita rates are: Residence, individual residence flat rate, \$2.50 to \$2.75; individual business flat rate, \$4.00 to \$4.75; two party business flat rate, \$3.25 to \$4.00.

Mark R. Sullivan, president of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, made the following statement in connection with today's order of the California Public Utilities Commission:

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"A charter amendment (No. 3) has been brought before the voting public in our city, the letter reads. It is not a matter of whether we will now open Torrance for legalized "draw poker," but whether it will ever be possible to legalize it in Torrance without the vote of the people. The Municipal Union of our city unanimously recommend that you vote "yes" on that amendment. (No. 3) for that will enact a law forbidding any future council ever considering it.

"This is a purely moral issue and the clergy of our community are considering it on that basis.

"Remember that gambling funds are often used to promote their ends politically, so we will once and for all close the door—Vote Yes on No. 3."

Torrance Ministerial Union this week dispatched letters to all members of local church congregations asking that they vote "Yes" on Charter Amendment No. 3 on the Torrance Municipal Election ballot next Tuesday. A "Yes" vote is necessary to prevent licensed gambling in draw poker halls in Torrance, it was said.

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(Continued on Page 4-B)

Propositions For Election Are Given Here

Measures to be submitted to the electorate on April 13 are the following ordinance amendments:

MEASURE NO. 1

Shall Sections 20 and 21 of Ordinance No. 249 of the City of Torrance be amended so as to permit the City Council of the City of Torrance, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Police of the City of Torrance or the Chief of the Fire Department of the City of Torrance, to suspend or remove for cause, for a period not to exceed thirty days, or impose a fine of not to exceed one month's pay, any member of the Police Department or the Fire Department of the City of Torrance, and establishing and creating, for the purpose of hearing and determining charges made against an officer or member of the Police Department or the Fire Department, a board to be known as the Trial Board. This Board shall be composed of three (3) members of the Civil Service Board of the City of Torrance, and providing that any verdict or judgment of a majority of said Trial Board shall be final, and that said Trial Board may dismiss any officer or member from the service of the City, or may reprimand or fine said officer or member.

MEASURE NO. 2

Shall Ordinance No. 200 of the City of Torrance, adopted by the voters on April 14, 1937, which reads as follows, be repealed:

"Each member of the City Council of the City of Torrance shall hereafter receive the sum of \$500.00 a month rental, which

(Continued on Page 4-B)